



SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions;
published daily when the Senate is in session.

5/1/03

FINAL PASSAGE

SBs 37-39 (Jacobs)

Current law requires all cemeteries to establish an irrevocable endowment care fund. This bill adds a definition of "endowment care." Under the bill, endowment care means all general and specific work necessary to keep the cemetery property in presentable condition at all times, including but not limited to cutting the grass at reasonable intervals; raking, cleaning, filling, seeding and sodding of graves; replacement, pruning or removal of shrubs and trees to assure access to interment rights; and the repair and maintenance of enclosures, buildings, walkways, drives, and memorial gardens.

Support: Michigan Cemetery Association, Michigan Funeral Directors, Michigan Memorial Park, Department of Consumer and Industry Services, Forethought Insurance.

SB 37:

- *SB 37 was amended during the 4/30 session.*
- **SB 37 passed [RC 63: 37 yes, 0 no].**

SB 38:

- *SB 38 was amended during the 4/30 session.*
- **SB 38 passed [RC 64: 37 yes, 0 no].**

SB 39:

- *SB 39 was amended during the 4/30 session.*
- **SB 39 passed [RC 65: 37 yes, 0 no].**

SB 293 (Bishop)

The bill would require the Director of the Michigan Department of State Police to allow any local governmental public safety agency to use the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS).

- *SB 293 was amended during the 4/30 session.*
- **SB 293 passed [RC 68: 26 yes, 11 no]. Sen. Schauer: This bill is unnecessary, since Governor Granholm issued an Executive Directive that allows local law enforcement to use MPSCS towers.**

SB 365 (Jelinek)

School districts are required to report data to a number of state departments. This bill would place the data collection responsibility with the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), which is housed in the Department of Management and Budget.

- *SB 365 was amended during the 4/30 session.*
- **SB 365 passed [RC 66: 37 yes, 0 no].**

SB 366 (Jelinek)

The bill would eliminate the state mandate for fifteen professional development days for teachers in their first three years of teaching, as well as the requirement that all teachers be provided five days of professional development per year.

Support: Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Association of School Administrators

Opposed: Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children, Michigan Education Association, Michigan Federation of Teachers, Michigan Association of School Boards.

- *SB 366 was amended during the 4/30 session.*
- **SB 366 passed [RC 67: 21 yes (all Republicans), 16 no (all Democrats)]. Senate Democrats: This bill will hurt the education of our children. Highly-qualified teachers greatly improve educational achievement by students. Thus, this bill moves in the wrong direction. We should be raising teacher standards, not lowering them.**

SB 395 (McManus)

This bill would prohibit so-called partial birth abortions.

Support: Right-to-Life of Michigan, MI Family Forum, MI Catholic Conference.

Opposed: Planned Parenthood, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), National Organization for Women (NOW), Michigan Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (MARAL).

- **Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].**
- **Jacobs 1A was defeated [no RC]. This would provide an exemption to “preserve the health of the mother.” Jacobs: Without this amendment, the bill is unconstitutional.**
- **SB 395 was moved to 3rd Reading.**
- **Jacobs 1 was defeated [RC 69: 12 yes, 25 no]. This would provide an exemption to “preserve the health of the mother.” Sen. Jacobs: Without this amendment, the bill is unconstitutional.**
- **SB 395 passed [RC 70: 24 yes, 12 no]. Opposed: This so-called partial birth abortion would ban safe, pre-viability abortions in violation of a woman’s right to choose. It is unconstitutional.**

THIRD READING

SB 397 (Allen)

The bill simply provides that there will be no statewide presidential primary (i.e., Republican presidential primary) in 2004.

- SB 397 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4078 (Hummel)

This bill would amend the current specific location requirements for certain district courts. Currently, in a first class district (a court district consisting of one or more counties) the court is required to sit at each county seat and at each city having a population of 3,250 or more unless the city is contiguous to the county seat or to a city having a greater population. This bill would provide that a district court would be required to sit in any city having a population of 6,500 (as opposed to the current 3,250) or more in any first class consisting of one county with a population greater than 130,000, unless the city is contiguous to the county seat or to a city having a greater population.

- HB 4078 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4086 (Middaugh)

House Bill 4086 reduces the offense classification for driving a vehicle with expired registration plates or tabs from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction for individuals operating a personal vehicle with a fine of not more than \$100.

- HB 4086 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4332 (Shackleton)

HB 4332 would mandate that local governments provide death pension payments to remarried widows of public safety officers who died in the line of duty.

- HB 4332 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.